

Hunter's Point

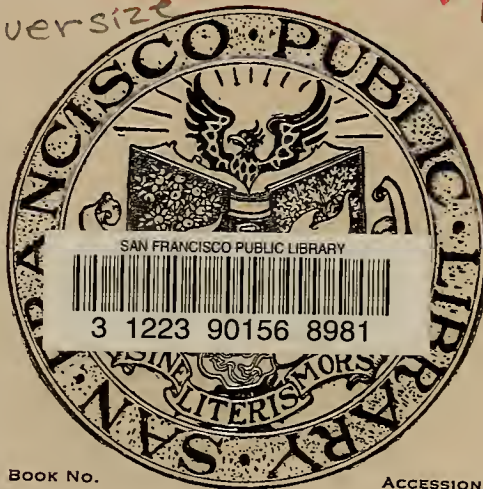


REVEREND
FRANCIS FLORENCE McCARTHY

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HUNTER'S POINT

By

REVEREND

FRANCIS FLORENCE McCARTHY

Pastor All Hallows Church, San Francisco, California



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To
Mrs. Andrew Welch

Nihil Obstat:
JOANNES M. BYRNE
Censor Deputatus

Imprimi Licet:
✠ JOANNES J. MITTY
Archiepiscopus Sti. Francisci in Calif.

Datum die XXVIII Aprilis, A. D. 1942

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PART THE FIRST

OUR LADY OF LOURDES MISSION CHURCH,
HUNTER'S POINT



HIS EXCELLENCY, MOST REVEREND JOHN J. MITTY, D. D.,
ARCHBISHOP OF SAN FRANCISCO

ARCHBISHOP MITTY DEDICATED OUR LADY OF LOURDES MISSION
CHURCH, AND PREACHED THE SERMON AT THE SOLEMN MASS

CHAPTER I

GIFT OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH AT HUNTER'S POINT

THE BEAUTY OF THE DISTRICT

THE most easterly part of the city of San Francisco is the peninsula jutting far into the Bay, called, since the days of the gold rush, Hunter's Point. The entrancing beauty of its setting and the mildness of its climate mark it as one of the most favored spots of the city. It is in fact a promontory, with gentle slopes for the most part undulating to the water. In a cove at its feet dance a gay fleet of yachts and other pleasure craft. From the vantage point of its hills one may see ships of the seven seas bound to and from the Golden Gate, or, all about on the skyline, view the mitred rim of the vast bowl formed by the Coast Range to imprison the sparkling waters of the bay. To the fore, San Francisco is seen through her bridges extending her graceful arms in friendly clasp to the counties of Alameda and Marin. Her jeweled arms sparkle brightly before the velvet curtain of night. The fogs and tradewinds at their appointed task of airconditioning San Francisco's summer days give scantiest attention to this secluded site, but leave it generally basking amid serene air in pleasant sunshine. Seasonally on a bright green carpet thrown over its hillsides, California's wildflowers hold their court, clad in varied gay costumes, and ruled over by the kingly poppy in robes of yellow velvet, ever secure in its dominance through the richness of its treasury of gold.

PLANNED EARLY AS A CITY

From the days when San Francisco was but a village the compelling advantages of Hunter's Point for homesites have been recognized. Successively the Townsends, the De Booms, the Ralstons, the Hearsts, the Brandensteins, and every generation of realtors had deeply interested themselves financially in its development, but all had failed to supply the glass slipper of transportation, the one magic means which would have led to the revelation of her beauty to the world.

Accordingly, though lying relatively near to

the heart of the city, and of surpassing loveliness, Hunter's Point remains to this day but sparsely built upon.

THE CHILDREN

Throughout the years both the Public School and Church Authorities have been concerned with the problem of giving adequate educational and religious training respectively to the limited group of children within the borders of Hunter's Point. After conducting their grammar schooling in a two room building for many decades, the Public School Board solved the matter of their education satisfactorily by suppressing the Hunter's Point School district, registering the pupils with children of their own grades in neighboring city schools, and caring for their transportation daily to and from the schools in taxicabs at public expense.

Ecclesiastically Hunter's Point belongs to All Hallows Parish, though it is distant four miles by its one available road from the parochial church. The clergy of the parish with the aid successively of the Sisters of the Holy Family, and the Helpers of the Holy Souls had journeyed to the district for many years to instruct the children in Christian doctrine, at any home or store that was available. In recent years Mr. Ray Burke kindly allowed the classes to be held in vacant houses which his realty firm held for rent. The pupils would sit at the feet of the teachers on boxes gathered in the neighborhood. When a tenant would be found for a house where the sessions were being held for the moment, another vacant house would be assigned for the classes, word being passed to the children of their next place of assembly.

MAGNIFICENT GIFT OF MRS. ANDREW WELCH

By gradual growth the number of children eligible for the sacraments finally approximated one hundred. It became an imperative duty to make more convenient arrangements for their regular attendance at mass. The pastor was formulating a decision whether to gather the little flock in some store or room at the Point for



HIS EXCELLENCY MOST REVEREND JOHN J. MITTY, D. D., AND MRS. ANDREW WELCH,
DONOR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH AND HALL

Sunday mass, or to transport some of the children at least by bus for weekly mass in the parish church, when to the supreme happiness of all, Mrs. Andrew Welch of San Francisco and San Mateo, in a spirit of apostolic zeal for the spiritual needs of the district, expressed her intention of providing Hunter's Point with a hall for classes of religion and social activities for the children, and a church for the holy mass and the continuous Divine Presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH

Property was purchased by Mrs. Welch on the northern slope of the promontory almost at the crest of the hill, and there overlooking the little community, with the wondrous vista of the bay, the hills, and the mountains, a beautiful temple was built to the honor and glory of God. The California mission style of architecture was chosen as appropriate for the church in its setting amid the hills; and with its bright tile roof over church, hall, and portico, supported on walls of creamy white and with the beautiful grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in its terraced garden amid aloes, palms, and olive trees, the attractive church is a true delight to all beholders.

Within, a precious tabernacle rests on a liturgical altar fashioned from Philippine mahogany wood, surmounted by an almost life-sized crucifix suspended against a rich panel of brocade, and overhung with a testa of ornate design. The mission style is followed in the lines of the sedilia, benches, and credence table in the sanctuary, and in the wrought iron altar rail, baptistry gates and brackets for the holy water font and sanctuary lamp. The pedestal of the baptismal font is faced with grey, black and brown tiles, and bears a basin and cover of beaten copper in beautiful design, the handiwork of the donor, Mrs. Guido Musto. After the Spanish style, the niches for the statues lie between opened ornamental shutters, to be closed however before the images during Passiontide. Other distinctive touches of

the mission style of architecture are revealed in the Indian drawings along the beams of the ceiling, and in the lanterns of amber color, suspended from wrought iron brackets along the walls. Stained glass windows, fourteen in number, enshrine medallions with representations of Our Lord and His saints. Fittingly this mission church of the Blessed Virgin Mary is adorned with a shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe even as her picture under this title ever found a place in all the California missions during the whole period that they were under the spiritual charge of the padres.

The Stations of the Cross, with the sole figure of Christ represented in every Station, are done in bass-relief in cane-stone, and are recessed into the walls of the church. The pews, seating two hundred and fifty, are constructed of white oak along pleasing and comfortable lines, while the great pipe organ in spite of its grandeur, finds a seemly place amid the refined furnishings of this chapel of Mary.

Indeed so artistically yet chastely is this mission church fashioned and furnished, so tastefully are its colorings chosen and blended that some have declared it unmatched either here or abroad, while all kneeling within its enclosure become captives of its beauty, and experience a soothing sense of restfulness and peace, conducive to an elevation of the soul and an intimate communion of the heart in consoling prayer to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

NAME GIVEN TO THE CHURCH

In a gracious gesture in recognition of Mrs. Andrew Welch's special devotion to Mary Immaculate on her apparition to St. Bernadette at Lourdes, His Excellency, Archbishop Mitty named the mission at Hunter's Point "The Church of Our Lady of Lourdes."

Mr. Martin Rist was the architect of the church, while the construction work was entrusted to Mr. Roy Galliher as contractor.



FRONTAL VIEW OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES MISSION CHURCH

CHAPTER II

CEREMONY OF DEDICATION AND SERMON BY ARCHBISHOP

CEREMONY OF DEDICATION

OUR Lady of Lourdes Church was solemnly dedicated at ten o'clock on Sunday morning, January 25, 1942, by His Excellency, the Most Reverend John J. Mitty, D. D., Archbishop of San Francisco.

The church was filled at the hour for the solemnity, while another silent crowd outside watched with reverence the beginning of the simple but eloquently symbolic ceremony of dedication. The clergy preceding the Archbishop and singing the Miserere, circled around the church, while the walls of the sacred edifice were sprinkled by the prelate with holy water in token of the purification and consecration of the new dwelling of the Most High. Reentering the church while the Litany of the Saints was alternately chanted by the Archbishop and the Choir, the procession went up to the Altar. At the conclusion of the Litany the inner walls of the church were likewise cleansed and sanctified with holy water. Hereafter that which had been the work of the hands of man was forever set aside as the House of God and the Gate of Heaven.

BLESSING OF THE FLAGS

The blessing of the American and Papal flags was the next beautiful feature of the ceremony. A corps of United States soldiers, stationed at Hunter's Point during the war with the Axis Powers, participated in the rite as color-bearers. After the blessing of the flags the color-bearers placed them in their proper stations in the sanctuary, when the whole congregation arose in salute and sang in unison The Star Spangled Banner.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION BY THE PASTOR

A Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving was then begun in the newly dedicated church, with the Most Reverend Archbishop presiding in the sanctuary. After the singing of the gospel the

following words of appreciation and gratitude were delivered by the pastor, the Rev. Francis F. McCarthy:

"Your Excellency, Most Reverend Archbishop, Right Reverend and Very Reverend Monsignori, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, and my dear Brethren:

"The Cathedral is the Metropolitan or Mother Church of the archdiocese. Around it are gathered all the other churches, as daughters around the mother. Into that sacred circle this church of Our Lady of Lourdes is today admitted, by none less than the head of the church himself.

"In the name of the clergy and the faithful of this parish I wish to express to you, Most Reverend Archbishop, the pleasure that is ours from your presence in our midst on this festive occasion. We deeply appreciate the honor accorded us by your participation in the ceremonies of our high feast; and we bid you a warm welcome on this auspicious occasion of your first official visit to this newest congregation under your jurisdiction.

"The presence of the Most Reverend Archbishop, my dear brethren, not only gives us personal happiness, not only enhances the glory of our solemnity, but it also brings home to us how secure, how happy a thing it is to belong to the one fold of Christ; because it is by his authority alone, that a new church is founded, it is by his authority that its doors are opened, and the great privilege of dedicating it to Almighty God is his very own prerogative. This authority comes to him by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, through an unbroken line of bishops from the Apostles on whom the church was founded, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.

"This chapel of Our Lady rests its foundations on ground sanctified by the footprints of the padres. The Spanish Fathers called this portion of the lands of Mission Dolores La Punta Avisadera--The Warning or Beacon Point. Today, a portion of the mission lands granted to the Church by the king of Spain has been restored to her becomingly by the gracious act of a Spanish



daughter of the faith. The rare—the almost unprecedented presentation of a church as a gift to a parish and diocese calls for all the wealth of ritual magnificence that can be grouped about the sacrifice of the Mass of thanksgiving and jubilation; and—as is seemly—a fitting expression will be given by the Most Reverend Archbishop at this solemnity to sentiments of felicitation to our parishioners and of gratitude to our benefactress. As pastor of the parish, conversant with its local needs, I wish to relate in a few words the reason why this princely gift of the mission church of Our Lady of Lourdes becomes an indispensable auxiliary to the parish clergy in the work of God. Left to itself, my dear brethern, it would seem that only in the indefinite future, if at all, would this district by its own means be able to provide itself with a church. Indeed, Hunter's Point has ever been the neglected Cinderella in San Francisco's household. Though it would seem that its entrancing beauty as a residential site should commend itself to the home-builder, the cold fact remains that though it was plotted out for a city in 1849 it is still even at this late date, but sparsely and modestly settled.

“Yet a hundred children, baptized in the Catholic faith, have been found in recent days to reside along its hillsides. A hundred children have been

LEFT: TABERNACLE ON THE MAIN ALTAR

BELOW: OUR LADY OF LOURDES MISSION CHURCH AND HALL, HUNTER'S POINT, SAN FRANCISCO





ABOVE: INTERIOR FRONT VIEW OF OUR LADY OF
LOURDES CHURCH

growing up without the comforting acquaintance with the blessed traditional glories of a Catholic Church, where they might see Christ's crucifix revered, and the statues of his saints honored; where visits might be made to Him in the tabernacle, and the rich graces of the Mass descend upon the worshippers.

"Drawing all her consolation herself from the Holy Mass, the heart of Mrs Andrew Welch went out to them deprived of its heavenly benefits, and while we were devising the usual expedients for the moment to meet the needs of a new missionary district, she resolved to build outright a tabernacle of the Lord in their midst in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

"The inspiration for this resolution came to her from that same inborn love of the Blessed Sacrament which has ever been aglow preeminently and traditionally in the hearts of the Spanish, above all the children of the church. It was but one historic expression of that love when wealthy Spaniards gave lavishly of their possessions to the Pious Fund, to enthrone Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in the twenty one Franciscan Missions of California.

"Happily we recall here the magnificent gift to the Archdiocese of the Mission Church of Santa Maria made by Mrs. Marie Le Breton de Laveaga



STATUE OF THE SACRED HEART



THE MAIN ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

in her holy desire to suffer the little children of Orinda to come unto Christ. With this example of generosity and piety shown to her by her dear mother, it is pleasingly manifest that Mrs. Andrew Welch had come honestly by her solicitude for God's little ones at Hunter's Point when she built for them this other mission Church to Santa Maria—to Mary Our Lady of Lourdes. Like her mother she sees in every one of them a child of our Heavenly Father, a prince of eternity whom it is an honor to serve, another Christ Who said, 'He that receiveth one of these little ones in My name receiveth Me.' She remembers His revelation: 'Their angels always see the face of my Father in heaven.'

"But who would reasonably expect that her promise would be fulfilled with such royal munificence? This beautiful temple, fittingly patterned after an early mission nestling amid California hills, is an adornment to the city of San Francisco. This artistic chapel of ease is a lustrous gem added to the diocese's chaplet of churches. An offering of love to her Divine Lord only the best of artistry was enlisted in the fashioning and furnishing of this holy place by the donor—humbly and reverentially conscious that it was destined to be the abode of Jesus in the tabernacle, and to be called in David's words, 'The House of God and the Gate of Heaven.' Here as long as stone remains upon stone the beacon lamp will be alight in the chancel throughout the day and night, and the Divine Keeper of the Lighthouse of La Punta Avisadera will be on constant loving watch to warn against shipwreck and to bring into the harbor of grace, precious galleons bearing the pearl of great price.

"Finally, it is a further happiness to record how the spirit of piety manifested by the donor of the church was caught up by numbers of parishioners and friends, inspired to contribute works of art for its further fitting adornment and needed furnishings for a full rendering of the liturgy. To call the role of honor of the benefactors and their offerings—from the very generous gift of the grand church pipe organ by Mrs. J. Vincent de Laveaga to that of the altar cruets by two little ones would not at this moment be in form; but the names of all of them will be gratefully recorded in the souvenir booklet of the dedication, even as they are indelibly inscribed on the 'fleshy tablets of our hearts.'

"These words but inadequately express the deep gratitude welling from our bosom. Like the waves that ruffle the stream they show not the depth below.

"But there is One who appreciates our offerings

to the full. Mary of Bethany annointed His feet with 'exceeding precious ointment,' the sweet odor of the alabaster box filling the whole house. This church is the alabaster box which Mrs. Andrew Welch gave to her Lord. He is never outdone in generosity. As an instance, what was the reward of Mary of Bethany? Of her Jesus in gratitude said, 'This woman hath wrought a good work unto Me . . . Whosoever this gospel shall be preached to the whole world, that also which she hath done shall be spoken of as a testimony of her'."

OFFICERS OF THE SOLEMN MASS CORAM EPISCOPO

The deacons of honor to the Most Reverend Archbishop were the Very Rev. John McGarr, Dean of Marin County and pastor of San Anselmo, and the Rev. John J. Hunt, S. T. L., pastor of St. John's Church, San Francisco. The Rev. Edmond J. Motherway, pastor of St. Emydius' Church, San Francisco, was Assistant Priest, and the Rev. Cornelius J. Guerin, pastor of St. Kevin's Church, San Francisco, the Metropolitan Cross Bearer. The Master of Ceremonies for the Most Reverend Archbishop was his Excellency's secretary, Monsignor Harold E. Collins, Ph. D.

The Rev. Francis F. McCarthy, pastor of All Hallows Parish of which Our Lady of Lourdes Church is a mission, was the celebrant of the solemn mass. The deacon and subdeacon were respectively the Rev. John F. Casey, pastor of St. Finn Barr's Church, San Francisco, and the Rev. Maurice J. O'Keefe, pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, San Francisco. The Rev. Joseph B. Renault, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral, acted as Master of Ceremonies of the Solemn Mass, and the Rev. Edwin G. Perkins, assistant priest of All Hallows Church, as assistant Master of Ceremonies. In charge of the ushers and visitors was the Rev. Philip F. Ryan, assistant Priest of All Hallows' Church. Seven boys from the Sanctuary Society of St. Mary's Cathedral served as acolytes at the solemn mass coram episcopo.

THE CHOIR

The music for the dedication and the high mass was artistically and beautifully rendered by a mixed chorus of fifty voices of boys, young ladies, and young men of St. Monica's Church, San Francisco, under the leadership of the Archdiocesan Director of Music the Rev. Edgar J. Boyle.

Sermon Of The Day By The Most Reverend Archbishop

At the conclusion of the solemn mass His Excellency the Most Reverend Archbishop John J. Mitty, D. D. delivered the sermon of the day.

"My Dear Friends:

"Today we witnessed another example of the ever recurring event, the establishment of another spiritual center, another center of Christian worship with Christ.

"When our Lord came down from Heaven, and before He offered up His life for men, He gathered around Him a group of men: His disciples. And after His ascension into Heaven this group went to the various ends of the earth to begin the work that has been going on for more than 1900 years and which will go on to the end of time. And as they went from place to place they established centers where they brought Christ to the people and brought people to Christ. And wherever possible they built churches. For a while they had to go into the catacombs, but where possible they built churches, and these churches were the centers from which radiated into the hearts and souls of men and women the spirit of Christ, the spirit of God. That has been the story of Christianity throughout all the years.

"Today another center has been established, and because of this it is my first duty to express deep gratitude to Almighty God for this latest of His blessings given to the archdiocese of San Francisco, and then my heartfelt gratitude to the generous benefactress, Mrs. Andrew Welch, for her magnificent donation to the spread of the faith, to the continuation of this great Christian, Catholic tradition that has been carried through 1900 years. Her donation of this church stands out in the history of this diocese. To my knowledge, there have been but two other such donations. And that makes me and you all the more appreciative of her for her goodness and generosity.

"This is not her first such gift to the work of religion in this archdiocese. For this and for her other gifts I wish to give public expression of my own gratitude, the gratitude of the Church, the gratitude of Christ, for what she has accomplished. I am sure Christ will grant her great blessings for what she has done, for the sacrifices she has made.

"I also express my gratitude for the other donations, to all those who have helped to make this church so beautiful; to the architect, Mr. Rist, to Mr. Gallagher for his fine work, and

also to the pastor, Father McCarthy, and his assistant priests for their pastoral zeal and activity in taking care of this part of the archdiocese.

"You have been witnesses to the impressive ceremony that accompanies the dedication of a church: the blessing of the walls outside, blessing of the inside walls, the singing of the Litany of the Saints, all constitute the dedication of this structure as a House of God. The Church tries thus to impress upon us that this is indeed God's house, the place where God comes as a neighbor, to live in your midst, to be a neighbor to you. In the Blessed Sacrament Christ is really and truly present. Here in this church, He continues what He did during His life upon earth. Here He offers up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; here, through the voice of the priest He preaches the gospel. Here, through the activities of the priest He administers grace in the Sacraments.

"The activities of this temple of God should be closely entwined in your lives. Here your children receive the gift of grace in Baptism; here you will hear the gospel; here you will attend at the holy Sacrifice of the Mass; here Christ will absolve you from your sins and you will receive Him in Holy Communion. Here people will come to be joined together with the blessing of Christ in wedlock. And here you will bring your own dear departed for Christ's final blessing upon them. Thus all the activities of your daily lives will center around this House of God.

"And yet this material structure is but a means to another end, and that is that it may help to dedicate, to consecrate and sanctify each and every one of us who are the living temples of God. The sanctification of the individual human being is far more important than the dedication of a church building. The church building is merely for the purpose of dedicating and sanctifying human lives in the service of God—to the leading of Christian lives. The human body itself is blessed and sanctified in Baptism, it is sanctified by absolution and Holy Communion. And it is the desire of Christ that we should deepen and intensify that sanctification in our souls and bodies because we are God's children, blessed by Him with gifts that no one else can give. And this church stands as the symbol of our own resolution to the sanctified, to be dedicated, to be consecrated in our own lives, as living temples of God.

"This dedication today takes on an added interest because of the startling contrast it presents to what is happening in other parts of the world where religion is forbidden and the name of God may not be mentioned, where church structures are being destroyed, where the worship of God is proscribed, the Mass forbidden, where thousands have been martyred or put into concentration camps and forbidden the exercise of their pastoral powers, where candidates for the priesthood have been martyred also, or put into concentration camps, their seminaries destroyed, and where our good lay people who showed the slightest sign of religion have likewise met with the same fate—death or concentration camps. Here, thank God, we have the blessing of freedom of religion, a blessing which I am very much afraid we do not properly appreciate. There are not many lands where this freedom now exists. On the contrary, churches are being bombed and people are forbidden to come together to worship God.

"Again, this dedication today emphasizes the



HIS EXCELLENCY, ARCHBISHOP JOHN J. MITTY, D. D.,
BLESSING THE AMERICAN AND PAPAL FLAGS



HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP JOHN J. MITTY, D. D., BLESSING THE EXTERIOR OF THE CHURCH
EXTREME LEFT (LEFT TO RIGHT): REV. EDMOND J. MOTHERWAY AND REV. JOHN J. HUNT, CHOIR BOYS WITH REV.
EDGAR J. BOYLE, THEIR LEADER

value of the individual in the eyes of God. In the eyes of God the individual is not mere cannon fodder. He is made to the image and likeness of God and God's earnest desire is that each individual be sanctified in order to grow up unto the likeness of Christ. The Church has always stood for the sanctity of individual personality and has waged a constant battle that that individual right be safeguarded—a right granted by Almighty God. Thank God that teaching harmonizes with the teaching of Americanism. Christ is the basis of our individual right, and may all of us recognize our duty and obligation to Almighty God to safeguard it. In other lands people are suffering because this right is denied—even in some cases members of our own families. Here we have a church structure to come to and say our prayers for those near and dear to us. And in this church we will be very happy to offer to our own boys, the members of our armed forces in the neighborhood not only an opportunity to fulfill the duties of religion, but we can help them by a welcome to recreational facilities, and all that we have. The Bishops of America have offered our President all our facilities throughout the whole country. They have offered the services of our priests, of our consecrated men and women.

“Harking back to the fundamental teaching of Christ—prayer and sacrifice, emphasized so often, as for instance His warning, watch ye and pray, given over and over again; likewise, ‘If you do not take up your cross daily and follow Me you cannot be my disciple’—today the nation is being called upon to do just these things, we have been asked to make sacrifices and more sacrifices. We are getting back to Christian teaching and to Christian practice. And while we as a Catholic group throughout the land must do all we can in a material way, to give everything we can for the building up of our forces, we also play a spiritual part by our prayers and our sacrifices.

“The spirit of a nation cannot be judged by its material progress. It can be judged only by its spiritual vigor. And if we believe in God, if we believe in justice, if we believe in a just and lasting peace, we will sacrifice all we have and all we are for these sacred principles of America. May this church be a symbol not only in this parish but in the entire archdiocese that we as a Catholic group dedicate and consecrate ourselves to both God and Country.”

BELOW: INTERIOR REAR VIEW OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH





REV. FRANCIS F. McCARTHY, PASTOR OF ALL HALLOWS CHURCH
AND OUR LADY OF LOURDES MISSION

PHOTO BY GABRIEL MOULIN



ART WINDOW OF CHRIST BLESSING THE LITTLE CHILDREN



VIEW OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH THROUGH
A PORTICO AT THE ENTRANCE

CLERGY PRESENT IN THE SANCTUARY

The following members of the clergy were present in the sanctuary: Right Reverend Monsignor Patrick J. Quinn, pastor of St. James Church, San Francisco; Very Reverend Monsignor Egisto Tozzi, pastor of All Souls Church, South San Francisco; Very Rev. Benedict A. Blank, O. P., S. T. L., Provincial of the Dominican Fathers; Very Rev. Albert A. Healy, O. P., Pastor and Prior, St. Dominic's Church, San Francisco; Rev. Ralph Hunt, S. T. L., pastor of St. Peter's Church, San Francisco; Rev. Julius Gliebe, O. F. M., Guardian, Franciscan Fathers, St. Anthony's Church, San Francisco; Rev. Charles Philipps, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Oakland; Rev. Edward J. Meagher, Pastor of St. Charles' Church, San Francisco; Rev. Peter Flynn, Pastor of St. Teresa's Church, San Francisco; Rev. Leo Howley, Chaplain, United States Army; Rev. Richard A. Gleeson, S. J., St. Ignatius' Church, San Francisco; Rev. Luigi D. Sciocchetti, Assistant Priest of the Church of St. Paul of the Shipwreck; Rev. Paul Ward, C. S. P., Missionary, St. Mary's Church, San Francisco; Rev. Thomas J. Farrell, Assistant Priest, St. Mary's Church, Oakland; Rev. Charles J. Murphy, Assistant Priest, St. James' Church, San Francisco; Rev. Raynes Harrington, O. F. M., Assistant Priest, St. Anthony's Church, San Francisco.

SISTERS PRESENT

In reserved seats in the body of the church were Helpers of the Holy Souls, Dominican Sisters of San Rafael and Stockton, Sisters of Charity of Mount St. Joseph's School, and of St. Vincent de Paul's School, Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Joan

of Arc School, and a Sister of the Good Shepherd Convent.

MASS FOR OVERFLOW CROWD

A low mass was said in the church hall for the accommodation of the crowd unable to



REV. EDWIN G. PERKINS
ASSISTANT PRIEST OF ALL HALLOWS PARISH

find room in the church. Following the low mass a loud-speaker was connected with the church to enable the people in the hall to hear the music of the choir and the sermon of the Most Reverend Archbishop.

Thus was founded the Mission Church of Our



REV. PHILIP F. RYAN
ASSISTANT PRIEST OF ALL HALLOWS PARISH

Lady of Lourdes at Hunter's Point. "Quod bonum, felix, faustumque sit."

MISSION AND FIRST COMMUNION

In the evening of the dedication day a week's mission was begun by the Rev. Paul Ward, C. S. P., of the Paulist Band of Missionaries. On the Sunday following the dedication a class of children received their First Holy Communion.

THE FUTURE

The primary intention of the donor of Our Lady of Lourdes' Church was to bring the consolations of religion to the present residents of Hunter's Point. As events transpired, the church became an immediate convenience for the fulfillment of their religious duties to the Catholic soldiers amongst the United States troops stationed at the Hunter's Point Dry Docks during the war.

It was foreseen too that the mission would serve as a magnet, drawing new Catholic families to Hunter's Point—a district which many had naturally heretofore refused to consider for a homesite on account of the miles of travel attendance at mass would have entailed.

Moreover recent improvements at Hunter's Point give certain assurance of its gradual increase in population. Hardly had the walls of the mission church begun to rise when the United States Government created a navy reservation at the end of the peninsula of Hunter's Point, while greatly enlarging its dry docks and shops. It would seem but natural that a certain percentage of the Government employees will make their homes in the district nearby their place of occupation. In fact in recent days the City of San Francisco sold four blocks of park

BAPTISTRY. BAPTISMAL FONT. STATUE OF ST. PHILOMENA





STATUE OF OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE

land at Hunter's Point to the United States Government as a site for a housing project to provide dwellings for war workers. The need of transportation for the workers and the soldiery to and from the docks brought about the installation of a new bus line to the district. Thus at long last, after a settlement of ninety years Hunter's Point has been linked with the rest of the city's transportation system.

A PROPHECY

In 1850 Lieutenant Buffum prophesied that Hunter's Point "will soon be to San Francisco what Brooklyn is to New York." One would hesitate to prognosticate the future of the district lest he line himself up with the good lieutenant as a false prophet. But it is safe to foretell that Hunter's Point will hereafter, by a steady growth, come into its rightful inheritance as a residential section, provided the bus line be not a mere war measure, but remain a permanent convenience. To insure the successful development of a subdivision it is the American plan for realtors to bring transportation to it, when except for isolation, it is otherwise marketable. With transportation within its gates it would seem then that the lonely hills of Hunter's Point will inevitably be peopled, and its streets throb with the pulse of life.

The Church looks upon a mission as a temporary institution and rejoices in the day when its development justifies its creation into a parish.

The mother parish of All Hallows extends to

her richly dowried daughter mission of Our Lady of Lourdes her congratulations on the apparent dawning of the day when she will have the happiness of changing her name—the change from "Mission" to "Parish."

WICKS PIPE ORGAN IN CHOIR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH



CLASS OF FIRST COMMUNICANTS

THE CHILDREN RECEIVED THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH

ARCHITECT'S DESCRIPTION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

OUR Lady of Lourdes Mission Church occupies a commanding position on a knoll at Hunter's Point, overlooking the bay of San Francisco. Receiving its inspiration from the old Spanish Missions of early California, it is constructed of wood frame and cement stucco of a typical Mission texture with rough hewn timbers over door and window openings. One of the most interesting features are the corbels supporting the stained glass windows of the nave. Of Spanish origin, they were brought to this country over thirty years ago.

The patio, paved with used brick laid loose, and simulating handmade tile bedded in sand, lends a beautiful color.

The predominating and focal point is a beautiful grotto mastered from the natural rock gathered from the surrounding hillside. Within the niche one sees a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes surrounded with beautiful ferns and flowers, and an olive tree, moved from one of the valleys of California.

A brick paved arcade leads to the entrance of the Church, where upon entering the nave the first impression is that of the California Missions. The walls are of "Thermax," an acoustical fire-proof material sprayed with flat wall colors in a warm cream buff, having the appearance of Travertine marble. The supporting trusses and rafters as well as the roof boarding are stained, decorated and over-glazed, giving the feeling of age and long years of standing, and add a marked note to the sacred edifice.

The nave, sanctuary and predella floor coverings are asphalt tile in terra cotta red tile coloring. The Altar rail is of hand-wrought iron, and the Altar of Philippine Mahogany. Brocade dossal hangs below a carved wood Testa. Suspended



MR. MARTIN J. RIST, ARCHITECT

from it on bronze chains are a nine foot Crucifix in ebony and a corpus of ivory.

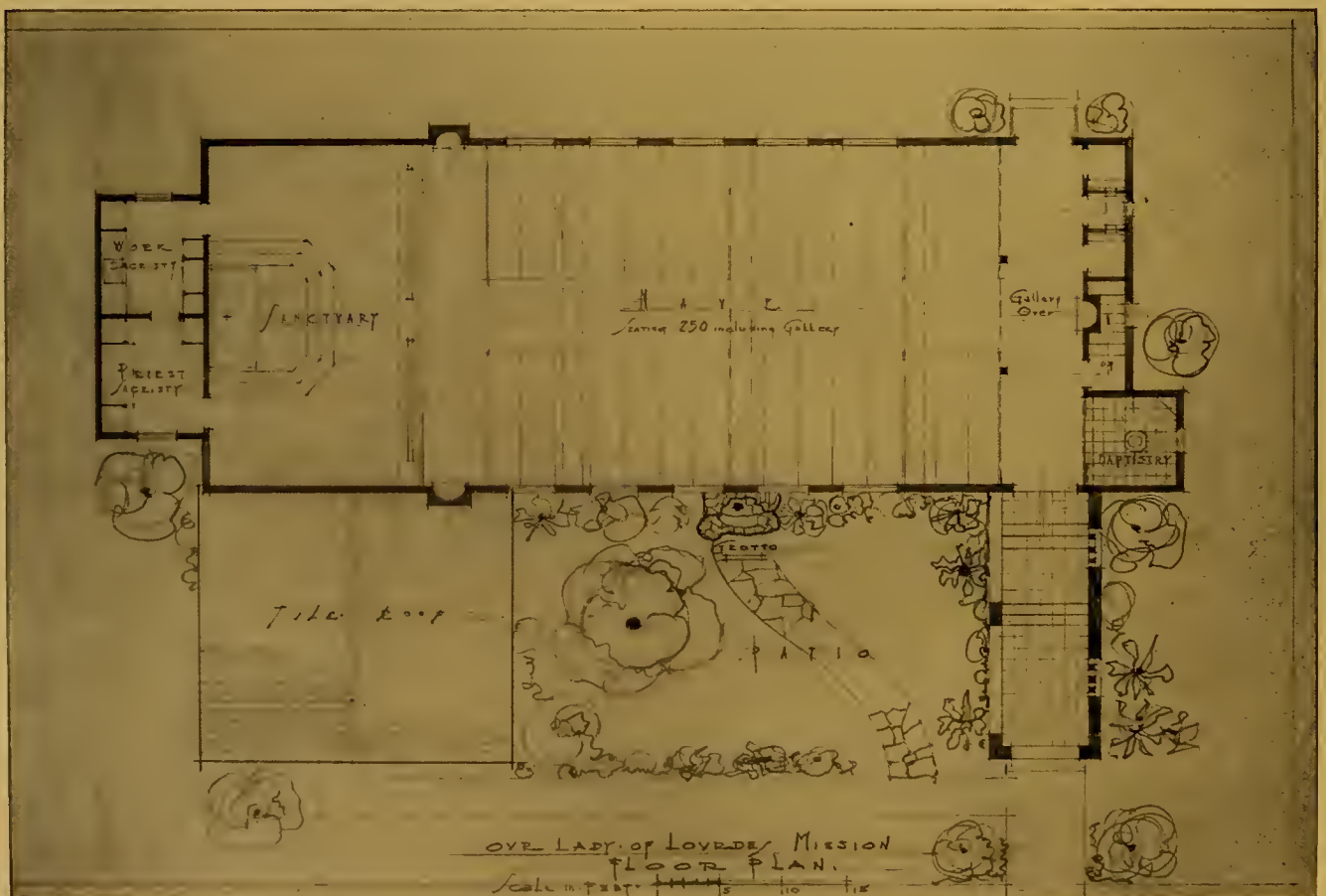
Below the sanctuary floor and extending into the patio are the community room, kitchen, rest-room facilities, store room and furnace room. The warm air gas fired forced aid circulating heating system can be diverted to fresh air ventilating.

The entire plan for the Church was developed with a thought of simplicity and economy in construction, as embodied in the early Missions, and above all, a feeling of reverence.

(Floor Plans of Our Lady of Lourdes Church are shown on the next page.)



GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES MISSION CHURCH.
HUNTER'S POINT, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA (COURTESY, MARTIN J. RIST)



FLOOR PLAN OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, HUNTER'S POINT, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
(COURTESY, MARTIN J. RIST)

List of Donations to
Our Lady of Lourdes Church



THE CHURCH PROPERTY
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH OUR LADY OF LOURDES HALL
WITH THEIR APPOINTMENTS
AND
THE GROTTTO OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
THE GIFT OF
MRS. ANDREW WELCH

THE CHURCH PIPE ORGAN
THE GIFT OF MRS. J. VINCENT DE LAVEAGA

THE TABERNACLE
THE GIFT OF MISS ANNE G. BYRNE
In Memory of Her Parents, Patrick and Anne Byrne

THE BAPTISMAL FONT
GIVEN BY MRS. GUIDO MUSTO
And Dedicated to her Grandson Alexander Lilley

DONATIONS

(Continued)



THE CHURCH BELL

GIVEN BY MR. RAYMOND T. BURKE

STATUE OF THE SACRED HEART

THE GIFT OF MRS. MARY MALONEY IN MEMORY OF BILL MALONEY

STATUE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THE GIFT OF MRS. MARY MALONEY IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS

STATUE OF ST. JOSEPH

THE GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. INDALECIO CORONA

STATUE OF ST. PHILOMENA

THE GIFT OF MRS. SHEILA MCSWEENEY IN THANKSGIVING

ART WINDOW OF CHRIST BLESSING THE LITTLE CHILDREN

GIVEN BY GRATEFUL PARISHIONERS AS A TESTIMONIAL TO
MRS. ANDREW WELCH, THE DONOR OF OUR LADY OF LOUDRES CHURCH

ART WINDOW OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. VITO CHIALO AND FAMILY

ART WINDOW OF THE SACRED HEART

GIFT OF THE CHARLES GHIORZO FAMILY AND THE JOHN EVANGELISTA FAMILY

ART WINDOW OF CHRIST IN THE GARDEN

GIFT OF THOMAS DUFFY IN MEMORY OF THE PARENTS OF THOMAS AND CATHERINE DUFFY

ART WINDOW OF CHRIST THE KING

THE GIFT OF MRS. CATHERINE COLLINS AND MR. AND MRS. GEORGE REDDY AND ELIZABETH

ART WINDOW OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. HERBERT BUCKLEY IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS

ART WINDOW OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

THE GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. PATRICK J. CONROY

ART WINDOW OF MARY, QUEEN OF ANGELS

GIFT OF SARAH BYRNE IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS, PATRICK AND ANNE BYRNE

ART WINDOW OF ST. ANNE

GIFT OF MRS. TERESA NILES

ART WINDOW OF ST. MARGARITA

GIFT OF THE M. ROLFI FAMILY AND THE T. SELNA FAMILY

ART WINDOW OF ST. FRANCIS AND THE BIRDS

GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. GEORGE P. CHAN AND FAMILY

ART WINDOW OF ST. ANTHONY

GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES GHIORZO AND PETER GHIORZO

ART WINDOW OF ST. TERESA, THE LITTLE FLOWER

GIFT OF MRS. JOHN DRISCOLL AND MISS AGNES DRISCOLL IN MEMORY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE MOTHERS,
HANNAH MURPHY AND MARGARET DRISCOLL

ART WINDOW OF ST. CECILIA

GIFT OF THE CHILDREN OF JOHN HUNTER IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN HUNTER, PIONEERS OF HUNTER'S POINT

DONATIONS

(Continued)



CHALICE

GIVEN BY THE REV. PAUL WARD, C. S. P., AND MISS ANNE WARD

OSTENSORIUM

GIVEN BY MRS. HARRELL WARD

ALTAR

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. STARR BRUCE

SIX LARGE CANDLESTICKS FOR THE MAIN ALTAR

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. RAMON SOMAVIA, JR., IN THE NAMES OF THEIR CHILDREN, FLORENCE, JUANITA, AND JOSE RAMON III, IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. J. V. DE LAVEAGA AND J. V. DE LAVEAGA, JR.

CIBORIUM

GIVEN BY A FRIEND

SEDILIA AND CREDENCE TABLE

GIVEN BY A FRIEND

CIBORIUM

GIFT OF MISS ANNE G. BYRNE IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS, PATRICK AND ANNE BYRNE

MISSAL

GIVEN BY MRS. OSCAR SUTRO

MISSAL

GIVEN BY TERESA CHIOINO, MRS. GEORGE GARDELLA, AND MRS. LOUISE FURNI
IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. G. B. CHIOINO

TABERNACLE VEIL

GIVEN BY MISS MARY CAMPIONI

PROCESSIONAL CROSS

GIVEN BY BILL MEAGHER IN MEMORY OF HIS PARENTS

THE LECTERN

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. THOMAS OROVICH

SANCTUARY LAMP AND ALTAR CARDS

GIVEN BY MISS FRANCES COLLUM

CORBELS AND BENCH FOR THE ACOLYTES

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. MARTIN RIST

SET OF ALTAR CARDS

GIVEN BY MRS. MARY McMENAMIN

GOLD VESTMENTS

GIVEN BY MRS. SONIA WILBUR

FIVE SETS OF VESTMENTS AND FULL SUPPLY OF ALTAR LINENS

GIVEN BY THE RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART, SACRED HEART CONVENT, SAN FRANCISCO

RED VESTMENTS, GOLD CLOTH TABERNACLE COVER, AND TABERNACLE CORPORAL

GIVEN BY THE HELPERS OF THE HOLY SOULS

COPE AND VEIL

GIVEN BY A FRIEND

SET OF GREEN VESTMENTS

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. MARTIN HIGGINS

CANDELABRA BEFORE THE SHRINE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

GIVEN BY MRS. ALBERT MILLY AND CECILIA MILLY
IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. EUGENE SWEENEY

CANDELABRA BEFORE THE SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART

GIVEN BY CHARLES AND JOSEPH MOZZETTI

SET OF WHITE VESTMENTS

GIVEN BY MRS. RAYMOND GILLETTE AS A TRIBUTE TO HER PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH SOMMER

DONATIONS

(Continued)



MASS CANDLESTICKS

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. JAMES P. BAILEY IN MEMORY OF THEIR DECEASED PARENTS

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

GIVEN BY EL CLUB GUADALUPANO

PASCHAL CANDLESTICK

GIVEN BY JOSEPH BOSSO

PICTURE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

GIVEN BY MRS. E. GIRAULT

AMBRY

GIVEN BY MRS. DOLORES IBBOTSON

CENSER AND BOAT

GIVEN BY MR. RODNEY JACKSON

HOLY WATER FONT AND BRACKET

GIVEN BY MRS. MILLIE LAGOMARSINO

MISSAL STAND

GIVEN BY ANN AND CAROL GODFREY

COMMUNION PLATE

GIVEN BY MISS MARGARET ASHE

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Given by

FIRST STATION

MRS. HUGH BRADY

SECOND STATION

MRS. DANIEL MACNEIL AND MRS. JOSEPH CORDONI, JR

THIRD STATION

MRS. DELIA DORCEY IN MEMORY OF MRS. ELLEN DORCEY

FOURTH STATION

MR. AND MRS. MATT P. BRADY

FIFTH STATION

MRS. JOHN KENNEDY IN MEMORY OF FRANCES STOCKER

SIXTH STATION

MISS VERONICA HOARE

SEVENTH STATION

MRS. MARY NILES ROUSCHE

EIGHTH STATION

MRS. ALICE NILES FELIX

NINTH STATION

MRS. GEORGE ROBERTSON

TENTH STATION

MRS. BRIDGET BUTLER AND GEORGE BUTLER, JR., IN MEMORY OF GEORGE BUTLER, SR.

ELEVENTH STATION

ST. JOSEPH'S CLUB

TWELFTH STATION

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES SCHEFLIN, IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS

THIRTEENTH STATION

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES MILLY, IN HONOR OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

FOURTEENTH STATION

MRS. ALICE FINN, IN MEMORY OF PATRICK FINN

HOLY WATER POT AND SPRINKLER

GIVEN BY MISS NELLIE WARD AND MISS MARY KILLEEN

ABLUTION CUP

GIVEN BY MISS MARY KILLEEN IN THE NAME OF NELLIE KILLEEN

ALTAR BELL

GIVEN BY WILLIAM R. FAGAN

ALTAR CRUETS

GIVEN BY NORAH AND PATRICK KEARNEY

MISSAL MARKERS

GIVEN BY MRS. CARMEL NEWMAN

DONATIONS

(Continued)



VEIL FOR THE OSTENSORIUM

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. M. J. HIGGINS

BAPTISMAL CANDLESTICK AND BAPTISMAL SHELL

GIVEN BY A FRIEND

ALTAR BREAD BOX

GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. J. FABIANO

THECA

GIVEN BY ROBERT MARRETT

CIBORIUM COVER AND VEIL FOR THE OSTENSORIUM

GIVEN BY THE SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

VEIL FOR THE MONSTRANCE, CIBORIUM COVER, AND BURSE

GIVEN BY THE RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART,
SAN FRANCISCO COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

BAPTISMAL STOLE

GIVEN BY MRS. MARGARET CHIESA

CANDLE-LIGHTER

GIVEN BY ISABELLE AND KATHRYN KAVANAUGH

BENEDICTION CANDELABRA

GIVEN BY MISS CLARE LEONARD

CASSOCKS

GIVEN BY ANTHONY NILES

CASSOCKS

GIVEN BY MRS. FRED JORGENSEN

CASSOCKS

GIVEN BY A FRIEND

CORPORAL FOR TABERNACLE

GIVEN BY THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT,
MONASTERY OF PERPETUAL ADORATION, SAN FRANCISCO

VEIL FOR THE MONSTRANCE

GIVEN BY THE SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

SURPLICES

GIVEN BY MARY JOYCE

WOODEN VASES

GIVEN BY MR. SYDNEY JORDAN

HOLY WATER SPRINKLER

GIVEN BY MRS. PAUL DAGUE IN MEMORY OF HER SISTER, CLARE LEONARD

THE AMERICAN AND PAPAL FLAGS

GIVEN BY THE McCOY COMPANY

OLIVE TREE

GIVEN BY MR. W. W. CROCKER. TRANSPLANTING OF TREE BY MR. PAUL FAY

ALOES

GIVEN BY MISS KATHERINE DONOHOE

LANDSCAPING AND PLANTS

GIVEN BY MISS ISABELLE WORN

EXPERT WORKMANSHIP

BY MR. FRANK BETTENCOURT AND MR. SANTA VENDRAMIN

PART THE SECOND
SECULAR HISTORY OF THE BEGINNINGS OF
HUNTER'S POINT

PREFACE



There has never appeared in print any book, article, or sketch on the history of Hunter's Point, or of the Hunter Family after whom it was named. This is singular in view of the fact that affection for their beloved San Francisco has moved writers to record the story of all other landmarks of the city and of all other pioneers, whose names have been bestowed on its streets or localities.

The author wishes to express his sincere thanks to the Bancroft Library for permission to consult the Oregon Papers, and the early issues of The Alta California and of the Pacific News, to Mr. Daniel McGloin, Chief Deputy of the San Francisco Recorder's Office, for aid in locating early city documents and maps, to Mr. A. O. Rouleau, President of the Title Insurance and Guaranty Company of San Francisco, for a record of the realty transactions at Hunter's Point, to the staff of the San Francisco Public Library for courtesies, and to Mrs. Mary Louise Hunter Hale for reminiscences about the Hunter Family.

FRANCIS FLORENCE McCARTHY.

HUNTER'S POINT

THE MISSION PERIOD

FIRST NAMED "LA PUNTA CONCHA"

WHEN that August morning, 1775, Juan Bautista Aguirre entered the cove at Hunter's Point in a clumsy cayuco, one of the crudest and smallest craft afloat, he could little dream that he was charting the site of future mammoth dry docks capable of cradling the mightiest ships of a distant day.

He was the second mate of the "San Carlos," which had just won the distinction of being the first vessel to pass through the Golden Gate, and whose captain Juan Bautista de Ayala had been commissioned by Spain's Viceroy Bucareli to make a survey of San Francisco Bay. In preparation for the task, Captain Ayala had, while at Monterey, directed the ship's carpenter to fell a mighty redwood on the banks of the Río Carmelo, and to hew a cayuco, or dug-out, from its trunk.

While the San Carlos lay at anchor off the shore of the present Angel Island—named by Ayala "Isla de Nuestra Señora de los Angeles"—Aguirre was directed by the captain to man the little cayuco and to survey the southern arm of the bay. It was his prerogative as surveyor of the port to give names of his choice to the localities he charted. Thus as the sailors propelled the rude craft over the smooth waters of the present Mission Bay, and he beheld three Indians inconsolably weeping on its shore, he promptly named the waters "Ensenada de Los Llorones"—The Bay of The Weepers. A short pull brought them next to the cove at Hunter's Point. He found the present Islais Creek, meeting the waters of the cove that late in summer, almost parched, and he contemptuously called it "Estero Seco"—Dry Inlet. Early that year Padre Francisco Palou had seen the little creek at its merriest, and had named it "Arroyo de San Bruno." By whatever name Hunter's Point had been known by the redmen we shall doubtless never learn. Perhaps it formed part of the Indian rancheria of "Amutajo" described as "adjoining Visitacion Valley." Definitely the first name given to it by a white man, in the person of Pilot

Aguirre from the prow of the little cayuco, was the beautifully descriptive one of "La Punta de Concha"—Sea-shell Point.¹ (See map page 28)

RENAMED BY THE SPANISH SETTLERS

It often happened, however, in the history of California that the original names given to localities or waters by explorers did not survive. Such was the fate of the name La Punta Concha. Hilaire Belloc in his "Paths to Rome," says that places "if left to themselves, and not hurried, have a way of settling into right names, suited to the hills about them, and recalling their own fields."

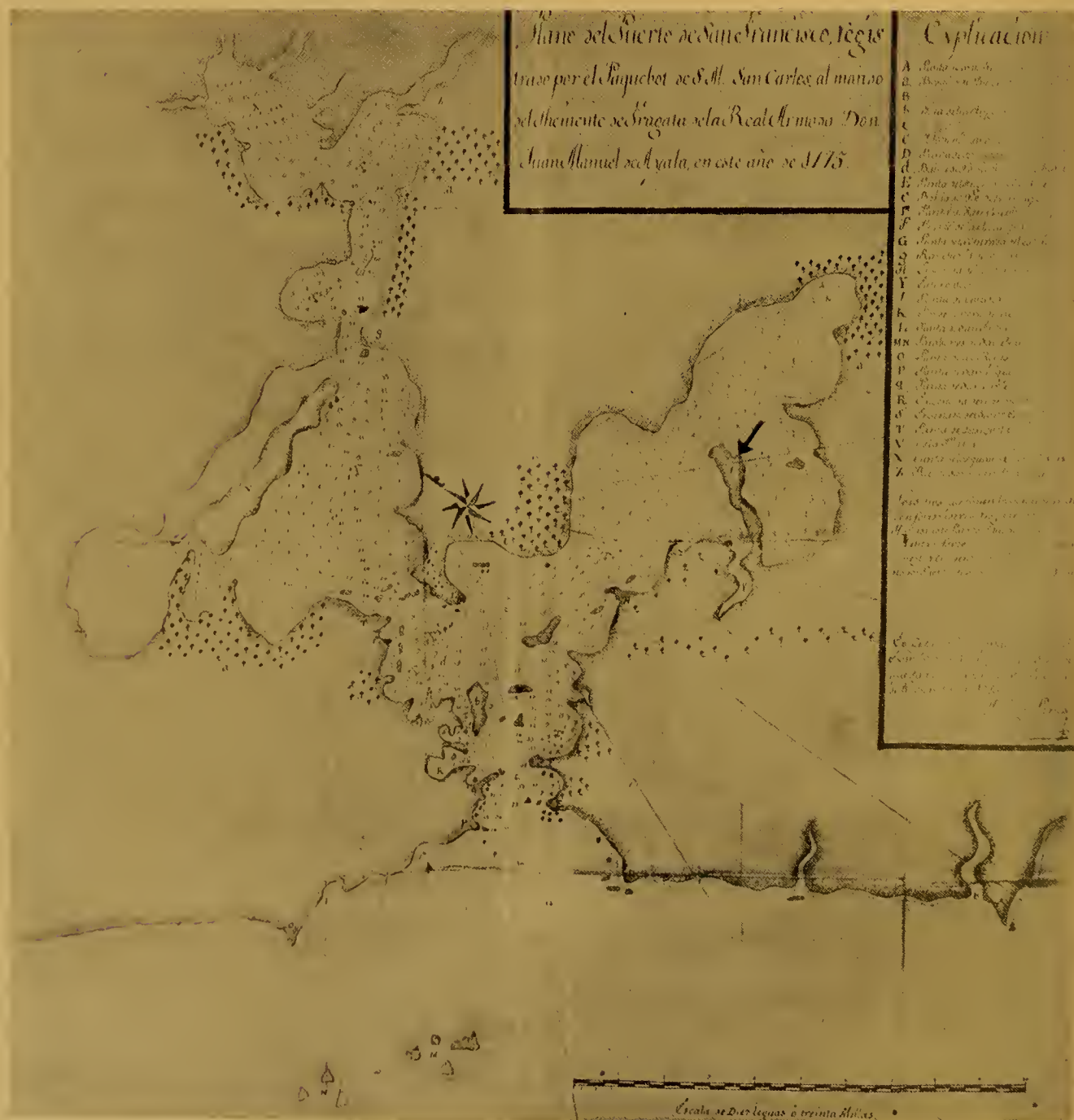
After founding Mission Dolores and the Presidio of San Francisco the first Spanish settlers had time gradually to acquire an intimate acquaintance with the topography of the new land. Readily recognizing what a natural guide post for travel on land or water La Punta Concha formed as it conspicuously jutted far into the bay, they appropriately renamed it "La Punta Avisadera"—The Beacon Point.

HUNTER'S POINT WAS MISSION DOLORES GRAZING LAND

The line of division between the Presidio and Mission lands was "at or near Mission Creek."² In the main a tidewater channel, it was partly fed by a fresh water streamlet from Laguna de los Dolores. Beginning at about the present corner of Sixteenth and Folsom Streets, it wound its way to the north of the Potrero hills until it flowed into Mission Bay.³ The Mission lands lying south of it stretched "five or six leagues to the vicinity of San Francisquito Creek"—the present location of Menlo Park.⁴ From east to west—from the Bay to the Ocean—the width of the Mission estate across its lower lands was "three leagues"—about twelve miles.⁵ For many years over all the pasture lands of this vast area roamed enormous herds of Mission cattle; but in 1797 the Buri-Buri Rancho, a princely portion of the Mission estate extending from San Bruno to San Mateo,

was handed over by the Government to the Presidio, as a Rancho del Rey, or supply farm for provisioning the fort. The Franciscan Fathers, even up to their Father Guardian in Mexico City, protested vehemently but in vain against this alienation of Mission Land. With the loss of Buri-Buri, Mission Dolores still retained the ownership of six other ranges on the San Francisco side of the bay, and one of twenty-five

square miles at San Pablo Point on the Contra Costa shore. The mares were pastured at San Pedro, the oxen at El Pilar, while the cattle grazed on Las Pulgas Rancho at San Mateo, and on the scattered ranges at Lake Merced, San Bruno and La Visitacion.⁶ The pasture lands of La Visitacion included the present hills and valleys of Bay View and Hunter's Point.



AYALA'S MAP OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY 1775. FROM ARCHIVES IN SEVILLE, SPAIN.
HUNTER'S POINT IS INDICATED BY THE ARROW. SEE PAGE 27

HUNTER'S POINT

THE MEXICAN PERIOD

MISSION DOLORES LOSES HUNTER'S POINT

THE Spanish Fathers maintained in accordance with Spanish law that the Mission lands together with their stock and crops were the personal property of the Indians. The property of the padres consisted only of the church, the monastery, the quarters of the servants, the cemetery, the gardens, the orchard, and the vineyard. When therefore they protested against any encroachment on the Mission lands, as in the establishment of the Buri-Buri Rancho, they did so unselfishly as trusted agents of their Indian neophytes in defense of their property. In the Mission plan pueblo life was to be substituted for mission life for the Indians as soon as they would become sufficiently trained for self support. The mission lands were then to be subdivided into small farms, and every Indian family was to be put in possession of a farm for its self maintenance. The Mission would no longer be their home, but would become the parish church of the pueblo. This just procedure had for centuries been the established practice of the Church with its Indian converts in Mexico and other Spanish dominions. The Indians encountered by the Franciscan missionaries in California were amongst the most degraded people on earth, and the process of preparing them for pueblo life became necessarily prolonged. Nor is the United States in a hurry to break up the Indian reservations despite the clamor of land-sharks.

It is not within the province of these pages to relate the story of the disastrous dissolution of the missions machinated by the land sharks amongst the young Mexican politicians reared in the province of California. Hardly had the ink on Governor Figueroa's illegal order for the secularization of the missions become dry, when the loot of the mission lands began. "There is no evidence," writes Father Z. Engelhardt, an acknowledged authority on the missions, "that any property of Mission Dolores was delivered to the unfortunate Indian neophytes."¹ "As for the

pueblos," says Hittel, "there was no success in any one of them. Nor was any to be expected."²

HUNTER'S POINT BECOMES PART OF THE "EJIDOS"

Hunter's Point and its contiguous territory of Bay View were jointly known as Potrero Viejo. Governor Figueroa had signed the secularization order, called by Bancroft "little less than a trick,"³ on August 9, 1834, and less than three short months later, on November 2, the covetous Jose Cornelio Bernal shamelessly applied to the Governor for a grant for himself of the three thousand, eight hundred and forty-nine acres comprised in the Rancho de las Salinas y Potrero Viejo. Following secularization the pueblo of San Francisco de Asis had been formed about the Mission Dolores, and in his reply to Bernal on January 2, 1835, Governor Figueroa stated that the ranchos he sought were "the property of the Pueblo of San Francisco de Asis, to which it serves as ejidos (pastures) for the common cattle," and he decreed "the petition is not granted, as it can not be given in ownership (en propiedad), but the party interested may keep his cattle there, the same as other citizens."⁴

Father Narciso Duran the fearless Presidente of the Southern Franciscan Missions, knew all the grasping young California politicians personally, and he held up a mirrored picture of the situation when he reported to Father Guardian Hidalgo in Mexico City that "The Californians threatened to rebel, and thus intimidated the pusillanimous Figueroa to such a degree that contrary to his own judgment, he acceded to the demands and threats of the territorial legislators, and sanctioned the shameful 'secularization' which has ruined the Missions in spiritual and temporal matters."⁵

Jose Cornelio Bernal bided his time, the while supporting the Young Californians Political Party which was fast assuming control of the province. The central government of Mexico City nullified Figueroa's illegal secularization decree of August 8, but the capital lay too far away to carry out its

orders in the now semirebellious province. Accordingly the lawless decree dissolving the missions prevailed. Governor Figueroa died before the arrival of the nullification decree from Mexico. In short order the Young Californians drove out his Mexican successors, Governor Chico and Governor Gutierrez, and succeeded in 1836 in placing in the governor's chair one of their own party, the native born Juan B. Alvarado.

HUNTER'S POINT BECOMES PART OF THE BERNAL RANCHO

For Jose Cornelio Bernal the opportune moment had arrived for the renewal of his petition for a grant of the Rancho de las Salinas y Potrero Viejo. A despoiler of the missions was at the helm of the state. "In fact," says Bancroft, "all writers and witnesses, both Californian and foreign, who mention the subject, are unanimous in describing Alvarado's rule from 1836 to 1842 as a period of plunder and ruin in mission history."⁶

The governor's office went through the customary formalities of consulting local authorities about the advisability of parting with the land.

The Justice of the Peace of the Pueblo of Yerba Buena, Francisco Guerrero, in a reply on the matter October 8, 1837, recommended the grant to Bernal "for services which he has rendered and is rendering to the municipality."⁷ Yes, Bernal was vouched for as a good party member. Was the Rancho needed by the Mission Dolores Establishment for the support of the Indians? The negative reply to the question by the Administrator of Mission Dolores, Jose de la Cruz Sanchez was not unexpected. Through political favoritism he had become not only Administrator of the Mission Establishment, but also grantee of the San Mateo Rancho, and it was unlikely that he would answer in this instance in a manner which might jeopardize the acquisition of a similar grant by his friend and neighbor Bernal. In addition he was so indifferent himself to the interests of the Indians, even denying them sufficient clothing, that the Inspector of the Missions, William Hartnell compelled him to resign his office as the Mission's Administrator on account of neglect and incompetency.⁸ It is not surprising then that Sanchez sent to the governor's office the following report, penned by another, since he himself could neither read nor write:

"This Establishment is not in need of the tract of land petitioned by said party, because the greater number of cattle belonging to the Establishment is on the place called Pilarcitos, on the coast. Signed: Jose de la C. Sanchez. Office of the Establishment of Dolores. October 8, 1839."⁹

"Pilarcitos!" Dispossessed of the Bernal Rancho the poor Indians hastened to Inspector Hartnell to express their fears that Pilarcitos would be the next rancho to go.¹⁰

The contrast is very marked between the acquiescence of Administrator Sanchez in yielding the Bernal Rancho without a protest, and the valiant fight made by the padres to the very seat of government in Mexico City against the alienation of the Buri-Buri Rancho from the mission lands of the Indians.

BOUNDARIES OF THE BERNAL RANCHO

Finally with the recommendations signed by his friends Guerrero and Sanchez ready for presentation to the governor's office, Bernal made off post haste on the one hundred and fifty mile journey to Monterey. By frequent change of mounts he reached the capital on the third day, and on that date, October 10, 1839, he received from the governor the coveted grant to the Rancho de las Salinas y Potrero Viejo. It was a principality of sixteen square miles bounded, to quote the words of the grant, "by the Mission of San Francisco, the sea, and the land of La Visitacion." Dwinelle's map of the San Francisco Ranchos specifically outlines the Bernal Rancho as extending north to south from the Potrero Nuevo through Hunter's Point and the Bay View District to Visitacion Valley. On the east it is bounded by the bay, spreading south-westerly through the Mission district to Ocean View, and dipping in that vicinity for a short distance into San Mateo County.

GRANT SIGNED BY MANUEL JIMENO

It is true that the grant to Bernal was signed by Acting Governor Manuel Jimeno Casarin, but Manuel Jimeno, as he was familiarly known, was the faithful secretary of Governor Alvarado, and was filling the office of Acting Governor during a brief three months' siege of sickness, suffered that year by Alvarado. Though obliged to nurse his health, Alvarado was not too sick for instance to make all arrangements for his wedding by proxy.

In the conferring of so important a political favor as the concession of El Rancho de las Salinas y Potrero Viejo it can be taken for granted that Manuel Jimeno was fulfilling the wishes of Alvarado when he signed the decree of gift. In fact Dwinelle states that Manuel Jimeno believed that such lands were the property of the Indians. The question came to the fore in 1844 when the de Haro Brothers applied to Governor Micheltorena for a grant to the last remnant of the lands of Mission Dolores—a tract lying before Mission

Bay in the Potrero Nuevo. The governor permitted them to use the piece of land for a pasture, but denied to them the right ever to sell it. Commenting on this ruling, Dwinelle pointed out that Governor Micheltorena and his secretary, Mammel Jimeno still regarded all such lands as the lawful property of the Indian neophytes.¹¹

BERNAL GRANT CONFIRMED BY THE UNITED STATES

When California was admitted to the Union a federal law was passed to the effect that the validity of California land titles must be established before a United States Land Court. The Court determined whether or not the Mexican Government in a given case had made a grant. When the case of the claim of Jose Cornelio Bernal to the Rancho de las Salinas y Potrero Viejo came before the United States District Court of Northern California in 1853 several witnesses appeared with charges of forgery in the Bernal deed. These were all discredited in the course of the trial. However a full week of the Court's time was consumed in the adjudication of the case. It was the strong contention of the United States District Attorney that the words "Potrero Viejo" in the grant were an interpolation.

If the inclusion of "Potrero Viejo" were proven fraudulent, Bernal's claim to Hunter's Point and Bay View would have been rejected by the Court. However the whole deed as it stood successfully passed the scrutiny of the Court as genuine, and Bernal's title to the entire Rancho was juridically confirmed under American law.¹²

DON JOSE CORNELIO BERNAL

Jose Cornelio Bernal was born in San Francisco in 1796. As a young man he held the political office of regidor, or alderman, in the pueblo of San Jose. He made San Francisco his future home at the time of his marriage in 1821 to a beautiful fifteen-year-old girl of Monterey, Dona Carmen Sibrian. Now in the year 1839, in the prime of life, he assumed the lordship of the Bernal Rancho. He erected the family home at the present site of St. Luke's hospital at Valencia and Twenty-seventh Streets.

For little more than their keep he hired Indian men and women to tend the cattle, raise the crops, and care for the house, while he luxuriated in the arcadian life of a landed Californian of the "idle forties."

HUNTER'S POINT

THE AMERICAN PERIOD

THE peace and happiness of California's pastoral life were shattered, never to be regained, by the strident cry from out the Sacramento Valley of "Gold." Its echo heard throughout the world, fleets of ships from every port pointed their prows to the Golden Gate. The sleepy pueblo of San Francisco of eight hundred inhabitants grew within a year to a feverishly active city of ten thousand population. Lots that were bought in 1848 for one hundred dollars commanded the price of one thousand dollars in 1849. Choicer real estate purchased for one thousand dollars sold in a few months for fifteen thousand. In the three months from June to September, 1849, four hundred and fifty dwellings were added to the fifty shacks and adobes in the city, to satisfy only a fraction of the housing needs. Thousands of men lived in tents or make-shift shelters. The columns of the *Alta California* were filled moreover with advertisements seeking investors in the founding of Alviso, Stockton, Crescent City on the Tuolumne, New York on the Pacific, Martinez, The Town of Santa Cruz, The City of Stanislaus, Springfield on the Sacramento, the Town of Boston.

NEW CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO PLANNED AT HUNTER'S POINT

Caught in the enthusiasm of the real estate boom throughout the State, and encouraged in their venture by the cries of the Forty Niners in their own city for homes, two San Franciscans, Dr. John Townsend and Corneille de Boom, conceived the idea of founding another city a few miles away at the present site of Hunter's Point under the name of South San Francisco. There were many considerations promising success for their project. In 1849 San Franciscans were ever tantalized in the summer time "by furious winds" described by Bayard Taylor¹ as "blowing down through the gaps in the hills filling the streets with clouds of dust." The description of their discomfort in the winter however, made by a reporter on the *New York Evening Post*² is more

dirgeful, as he pictures "the miserable unimproved streets," through which the citizens must need drive or trudge, "full of fathomless mixed sand and clay, mud and filth—almost to one's middle." Our reporter was surfeited with the woefulness of his stay in San Francisco when he sums up his impressions by saying, "It is one of the most windy, barren, and dismal spots that could well be found in a temperate climate."

The commercial life of the city was strangling from the choking sand-hills on the one hand and the distance to deep water on the other. Soon the demands of business necessitated at great and forbidding expense, the building in 1849 of the two hundred and fifty foot Broadway Wharf at Clark's Point, and the two thousand foot Central Wharf between Sacramento and Clay Streets.

Townsend and de Boom were pointing out in their advertisements that at their new city of South San Francisco on the other hand "ships of the heaviest burden may lie within a boat's length of the land;" that instead of sand-hills, their property, "rising in a gentle slope from the water, is composed of rich clay soil;" and that "the character of this soil keeps the air free from dust and sand." Was not San Francisco freighting water from Sausalito, or drawing it through a long wooden aquaduct from the Presidio? The promoters of South San Francisco assured the public that at their site "springs of fine running water are found on the face of the hills in many places."³ (See photostat of the advertisement on page 33.)

HUNTER'S POINT A SECOND BROOKLYN!

The prospects for the success of this new development at Hunter's Point appeared so good, that Lieutenant E. Gould Buffum made bold to prophesy in his "Three Years Residence in California" published in 1850, that "South San Francisco, though it may never equal its northern namesake, will at least become, in no very distant day, what Brooklyn is to New York."

Dr. John Townsend, a native of Virginia, had crossed the plains with the Elisha Stevens party in 1844. His education and ability were soon recognized in the little community that comprised San Francisco, and its citizens elected him their alcalde in 1848 and a member of the Ayuntamiento in 1849. An equally representative citizen of the highest type was his partner in the development, Corneille de Boom. A Dutch merchant born in Antwerp, he arrived in San Francisco in 1849 with a cargo of goods from South America. With two other merchants he established the business firm of de Boom, Vigneaux, and Grizar on Clay Street. We find then two substantial citizens undertaking with well founded enthusiasm, and at great expense, the creation of the new city of South San Francisco at Hunter's Point. Clyman in his "Diary" however, pictures Dr. John Townsend as a rather venturesome speculator, when he writes somewhat subtly, "His pleasant wife does not enter into all her husband's chimerical speculations." Chimerical, unfortunately, the present venture proved to be.

Dr. Townsend had no difficulty in enlisting Jose Cornelio Bernal and his wife about the plan, and in obtaining from them a suitable contract for its launching. By the terms of an agreement⁴ drawn up on June 24, 1849, the Bernals conceded (concede) to Doctor Townsend the whole eastern portion of their rancho touching the bay, "with the object of forming there a pueblo or city." The use of trees in the description of the property as markers for its boundaries is an illustration of the quaint method common amongst the Spanish and Mexican dons in their survey of land. The northern boundary of the tract was to be "a place called the Cottonwoods, at the 'estero.' Its southern boundary was established at 'the honeysuckle bush,' which was to be found 'on the extreme southern boundary' of the estate, 'at a distance from the shore of twelve hundred varas more or less.'" The "estero" on the Bernal grant was "El Estero Seco," the present Islais Creek, along the banks of which grew the cottonwood trees. Like the trees, the honeysuckle bush has long since been uprooted or withered away; but

PHOTOSTAT OF REAL ESTATE ADVERTISEMENT IN THE
OCT. 18, 1849 EDITION OF ALTA CALIFORNIA ABOUT
PROPOSED NEW CITY AT HUNTER'S POINT. SEE PAGE 34

The concession if successful was to pay the Bernals richly. They were to receive one half of the purchase price of every lot sold on the tract, while "the necessary expenses entailed in the sale of the houses, and lots, and the writings" were to be borne by Doctor Townsend alone. To

enlist further capital to finance the project Dr. Townsend, a week after consummating the deal with the Bernals, entered into a partnership in the subdivision with Corneille de Boom and Jacob A. Moerenhout.⁵ In advertisements about the tract however, Dr. Townsend and de Boom alone are mentioned as the owners.

BLOCK MAP OF HUNTER'S POINT IN 1849

In fulfillment of the terms of the contract, and for use in their sales campaign, the promoters engaged Addison R. Flint to make a survey, and to draft a block map of the territory. He had been engaged by financial interests in Chile to make a preliminary survey for a South American railroad, in the development of which, incidentally, the absconding Henry Meiggs was later to recoup his fortune. Mr. Flint arrived in San Francisco in May, 1848, where his expert services were in constant demand until he left California for a permanent residence in Oregon. The whole present area of Hunter's Point and the Bay View District is laid out in his map in lots, blocks and streets.⁶ (See map, page 35.)

The advertisements in the current newspapers about the project indicate that Hunter's Point was to be the nucleus of the new city of South San Francisco, and that the Bay View District was to be reserved as a hinterland for its future growth. In fact the County Surveyor, Clement Humphrey, in his map of the territory made June 1, 1852, designates the present Hunter's Point alone as "South San Francisco," and includes the Bay View District in "The Bernal Rancho."⁷

REAL ESTATE ADVERTISEMENT ABOUT HUNTER'S POINT IN 1849

The advertisement in the *Alta California* about the prospective new city at Hunter's Point is interesting, not only for its minute description of the tract, but also as a specimen of the staid, prosaic manner in which realtors of that day promoted the sale of a subdivision. Devoid of all display type, it is presented under the heading "South San Francisco" in no different form than the news items in the other columns. The advertisement read as follows:⁸

THE CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO.—The undersigned beg leave to inform the public that a survey of the city of South San Francisco has just been completed, and a map of the city is now to be seen at the store of de Boom, Vigneau & Grizer on Clay Street. The site is located on the bay of San Francisco, two miles southerly of the city of San Francisco, and in plain sight of the

shipping in the harbor. The same depth of water found in the harbor of the city of San Francisco is to be found in the harbor of the city of South San Francisco, and along the bay between the two harbors. The harbor is more surely protected from the wind than the harbor of the city of San Francisco, and ships of the heaviest burden may lay within a boat's length of the land at many points, and quite close generally along the whole front of the city, affording the best facilities for discharging cargo. The land rises in a gentle slope from the water, and is composed of a rich clay soil. There are extensive stone quarries, and springs of fine running water are found on the face of the hill in many places. The character of the soil always keeps the air free from dust or sand. The surrounding scenery is highly picturesque, and a more pleasant place for residence, or a more convenient place for business is not to be found on the bay. A stream of the finest water in California and sufficient in quantity to water both cities, and all the shipping that may ever lay in their harbors forms the northern boundary of the city and will be conducted into a reservoir for such purposes. The only practical route for a good road from the city of San Francisco to San Jose will pass through South San Francisco, crossing the mouth of Mission Creek, and the mouth of the creek just alluded to. From San Francisco to San Jose and Monterey is one of the best natural roads in the world; and passing on this road from South San Francisco, you travel along a beautiful valley of hard grass land to the puertusuelo, a distance less than two miles.

Persons desirous of seeing the city will go out on the old Mission Road, and will find the Mission about half way. It is but a short ride; go out and see for yourselves, and if you wish to purchase lots that will shortly equal in value those of the city of San Francisco, call on the subscribers at the store of de Boom, Vigneaux & Grizar.

P. S. On the first day of October the price of lots will be raised from one hundred dollars to one hundred and fifty dollars.

**JOHN TOWNSEND
CORNEILLE DE BOOM**

(From *Alta California* newspaper, Oct. 18, 1849)

(See photostat of original advertisement on page 33)

FOUNDING OF A CITY AT HUNTER'S POINT IN 1849 A FAILURE. THE HUNTER BROTHERS

Townsend and de Boom engaged two young brothers, Robert Eugene Hunter and Philip Schuyler Hunter, as their real estate agents on the tract. These in turn inserted advertisements about the project under their own names in several issues of "The Pacific News," beginning with the issue of September 25, 1849. The wording of the advertisements was identical with those in the *Alta California* with the exception of a postscript which carried the information that, "A good house with every thing necessary for the accommodation of visitors is now established at South San Francisco."

Without the changing of a word, and in the same dull display, Townsend and de Boom ran their advertisement in the *Alta California* from September 27, 1849 to November 8, 1849, before abandoning hope for a successful outcome for

the venture. The Hunter Brothers seem to have been more optimistic about the project than the owners, because they persevered in promoting it in weekly advertisements in "The Pacific News" until the last day of the year, 1849.

The multiple advantages of the site for a city had held out great promise to the promoters in their undertaking, but, as Bancroft in a brief reference to the project says, "The distance and difficulty of access to the district long proved a bar to its settlement."⁹ The scheme was written

off as a loss by the partners. Corneille de Boom thereafter confined his attention chiefly to the prosecution of his firm's business, while Dr. John Townsend, disillusioned, abandoned politics and business, to undertake the life of a farmer on his five hundred acre ranch on the Milpitas Road at San Jose. There, several months later, both he and his wife contracted cholera and died of the dread disease in December, 1850.

In his book published in 1850 and entitled, "A Frenchman in the Gold Rush," Ernest de Massey has a paragraph on the promotion scheme which concludes with the words, "In the end nothing remained of this fine project but some uninhabited shacks, and fifteen thousand dollars in unpaid bills."¹⁰

THE FLINT MAP OF HUNTER'S POINT AND BAY VIEW, MADE IN 1849. SEE PAGE 34. COURTESY OF MR. A. O. ROULEAU.



THE HUNTER FAMILY OF HUNTER'S POINT

THE very brief account by de Massey of the proposed new city at Hunter's Point, though for the most part inaccurate, is valuable in as much as it gives the sole description—though a fleeting one—to be found in any collection of Californiana about a member of the Hunter family, after whom Hunter's Point was named. Robert Eugene Hunter and Peter Schuyler Hunter both "Fortyniners" were the only two members of the family in California at the time. John Hunter, another brother, followed them to San Francisco in 1856. With one of the former two, Ernest de Massey had a pleasant visit at the Half Way House between San Francisco and San Jose in 1850. When de Massey represents him as the proprietor of the inn, he is no doubt in error because amongst the surviving children of John Hunter, there is no tradition that either of his brothers ever managed or owned a roadhouse. The de Massey account reads as follows:

"Hunter is a pleasant, courteous, well-mannered man, who studied for awhile in France at one of the polytechnic schools. Graduating from there in 1834, he went into the navy. From this he was given his discharge to return home to his family in America. As he was leaving France with some valuable merchandise his ship was wrecked. He has already been ruined and reestablished three times. No obstacles are too great for an American!

His last calamity was the life-sized affair. He attempted nothing less than to establish a new city on a well selected site on the Bay. This was named South San Francisco, since it adjoined the main city. Taking an option on the land he had plans made, lots mapped out, and an advertising campaign put on. His announcements and advertisements appeared in all the local papers. Large sums were spent, but purchasers were few. In the end nothing remained of the fine project, but some uninhabited shacks, and fifteen thousand dollars in unpaid bills."¹

On the face of it, de Massey presents a garbled version of the attempt to establish the city of South San Francisco at Hunter's Point. The records just quoted show indisputably that the project was fostered by Dr. John Townsend and Corneille de Boom. Under their own names the Hunter Brothers stated in their advertisements in

The Pacific News, that they were only "the agents for the proprietors."

THE HUNTER BROTHERS CAME OF DISTINGUISHED FAMILY

The complimentary description however, that "Hunter is a pleasant, courteous, well-mannered man, who studied for a time in France at one of the polytechnic schools," would fit either of the two brothers living in San Francisco that year. The Hunters were all men of refinement, education, and travel, and it must ever have been a mystery to their relatives and friends why after leaving their father's home of culture, they did not with their talents seize the many opportunities in the early life of San Francisco to attain a place of affluence and importance in the community, instead of, Bohemian-like, contenting themselves with a modest livelihood from dairying or truck-gardening at the then desolate Hunter's Point.

THEIR FATHER WAS COLONEL ROBERT R. HUNTER

The Hunters could boast of an ancestry rich and distinguished from colonial times. Their father was Colonel Robert R. Hunter who rose by regular gradation from a lieutenancy to colonelcy while in active service for his country in the war of 1812. The colonel's father was the owner of Hunter Island. His brother John was a Senator of New York for many years.² Colonel Hunter was married to Letitia Underhill, who also came from wealthy colonial stock, and the family home, where their three sons and four daughters were born, was on Baxter Street in the City of New York. A family of means, they had other homes on the Hudson, in Sandy Hill near Troy, at Philadelphia, and in New Jersey.³ In his obituary notice it was recalled that "Colonel Robert R. Hunter was one of the most active Democrats of his time, and was a trusted counsellor of General Jackson, Van Buren, and other members of Old Hickory's cabinet. President Jackson appointed him United States Consul to Cowes (The Isle of Wight), which position he retained for some sixteen years. Colonel Hunter was a gentleman of

large wealth, and dispensed the most princely hospitality while representing his country abroad. His doors were always open to his countrymen, and his liberality made him celebrated both in Europe and America."⁴ (See photostatic copy on this page.)

Colonel Hunter died on September 27, 1874, at the age of eighty-seven. His picture, painted on ivory, was on exhibition at the 1915 International Exposition at San Francisco, as a choice example of artistry.

HUNTERS EDUCATED IN FRANCE

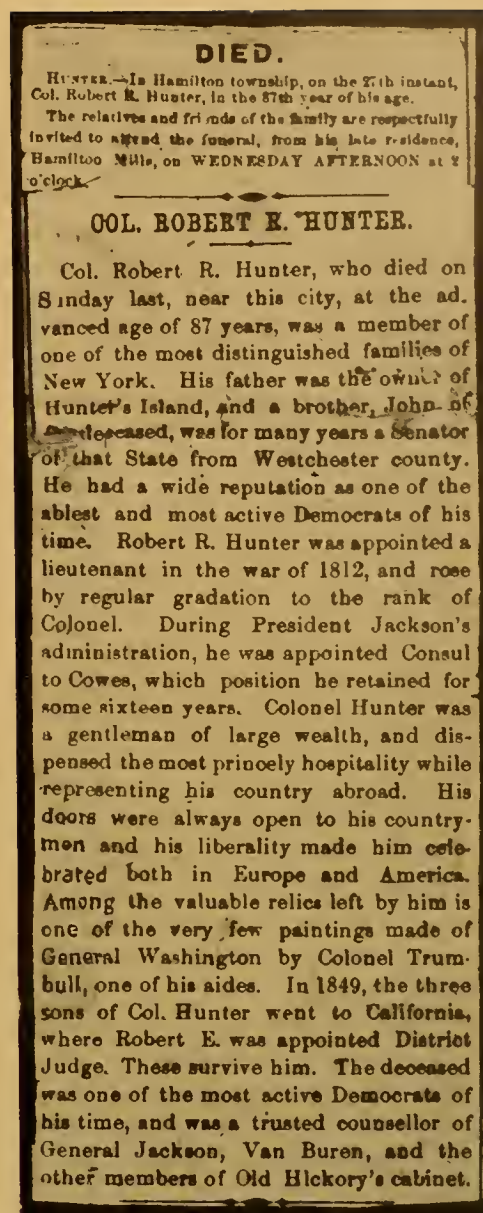
While serving his government as Consul at the Isle of Wight, the Colonel gave his children the benefit of an education in private schools in France. Doubtless it was in the French language that de Massey conversed with one of the Hunters at the roadhouse in California in 1850.

After finishing their education on the Continent at the age of eighteen, the three boys at various times had taken trips as passengers in sailing vessels to South America and the West Indies.⁵ The wanderlust was in their veins, and in their case, the siren cry of "Gold" needed but to be heard to lure them into joining the world-wide trek of adventurous spirits to California.

HUNTERS WERE FORTY-NINERS

Robert Eugene Hunter was about twenty-nine years of age, and his brother Philip Schuyler Hunter was twenty-six,⁶ when they embarked at New York for California with fourteen other passengers on the clipper ship "Memnon,"⁷ on April 11, 1849. The usual length of the journey varied from one hundred and forty to two hundred and sixty-five days, but the Memnon was the speediest clipper ship afloat, and her commander, Captain George Gordon, brought her into San Francisco Bay on July 28, 1849, after a record passage of only one hundred and twenty days.⁸

It is virtually certain that the young Hunter brothers did not, with the rest of the passengers, rush from the ship to the gold-diggings. In fact their early engagement upon their arrival by Dr. Townsend and de Boom as the real estate agents on the Hunter's Point tract would preclude any trip on their part, short of the quickest dash, to the mines, and of any such gold seeking adventure there was never mention in future years in the family circle. The proprietors must have esteemed the cultured brothers highly because on a block map of the proposed new city of South San Francisco, the square reserved for recreational purposes was given the name



PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF THE OBITUARY NOTICE OF COLONEL R. HUNTER, FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 1874. EDITION OF DAILY PUBLIC OPINION, TRENTON, N. J.

"Hunter Square." (See fragment of map on next page.)

Doubtless, as agents of the tract, Robert and Philip Hunter resided in the "good house" on the land mentioned in their advertisement in the Pacific News. It is not unlikely that this hostel became their first permanent home after the failure of the realty project. It is a fact that the Hunter home stood for years on the site of the finest spring on the land, which even in this day forms a perennial source of supply for a commercial firm dispensing bottled water to its customers. It would be reasonable to believe that Dr. Townsend and de Boom would have chosen that same location for their guest house for

prospective buyers of lots on account of the attraction at the spot of the plenteous supply of water.

As a matter of fact on a map of the Hunter Ranch made about 1870 there is an edifice amongst the Hunter family dwellings labelled, "The Old Hunter Point House." The very name would seem to identify it as the original hostel erected in the 1849 realty campaign. (See map on next page.)

Possessing no deed to the land, living on it only by suffrance,⁹ it was at this favored nook by the side of the crystal clear water of the spring that the Hunter families were to make their home for the next quarter of a century. Its life-giving waters were to sustain their dairy herd and ease the thirst of their truck-garden plants. Their women folk rejoiced at its abundance for the household, while their children sought its coolness after play.

It was Robert's young wife, the former Sarah Toole, born and raised in New York, who was the first of the family to join the two brothers in their California home in 1852. Sarah's sister Charlotte had married the third Hunter brother, John, and it was a twofold affection, that of sister for sister and brother for brother—written into many appeals by mail—that drew John and his wife with their five children to the family circle at Hunter's Point. The parents and their little flock were borne to Panama on the sailing vessel "George Law." Crossing the Isthmus safely with the health of all the little ones unimpaired, they reembarked on the Pacific to arrive at San Francisco in the year 1856.¹⁰ The name "Hunter's Point" first appears in the San Francisco Directory, as the family residence, in 1858.

HUNTER HOME SUPPLIES SAN FRANCISCO WITH WATER

Opportunely for the greater comfort of all, the Hunters were made joyous at this time by an unexpected source of income. The sparkling waters from their faithful spring became a font of flowing gold. A group of business men were seeking an unfailing and copious supply of pure water for sale to San Franciscans and to ships in the harbor, and after an exhaustive survey had found the abundant flow of water they required on "that certain parcel of land, known as the Hunter's Ranch." Under the firm name of "The Independent Water Company" they entered into a contract¹¹ with the Hunters for an unlimited tapping of the spring at a flat rate of fifty dollars a month.¹² Thereafter for the next five years—the life of the contract—there was never again to be a lonely period for the members of the Hunter family, as the firm's vessel docked at their door for the daily haul of water to San Francisco, and ships and barges in the harbor anchored at the



HUNTER'S SQUARE. SEGMENT OF A MAP DRAWN IN 1849 OF THE PRESENT HUNTER'S POINT AND BAY VIEW DISTRICT. SEE PAGE 37. COURTESY OF RECORDER'S OFFICE.

shore to replenish their tanks and casks. These were particularly thrilling days for the children as they beheld the constant procession of the various types of ships and sailors from every country in the world, or heard the men folk of the Hunter family exchanging notes about their own early trips with English or French-speaking seamen, or mingled in the family circle as sailors told news of the world, and recounted their many tales of shipwreck or tragic experiences at sea.

THE HOUSE BROUGHT TO HUNTER'S POINT AROUND THE HORN

Then came that day with its crushing heart-break, when a lad of the family with straining eyes, caught the name on the prow of a ship down the harbor, and breathlessly rushed up to the house with the cry, "Here she comes at last." The family had but a few days before received a happy surprise in an announcement by mail from their good father, Colonel Robert R. Hunter, that he had ordered his architect to design a grand house for his children in California, and had directed a contractor to cut the lumber to go into it to the last detail to scale, and to mark every prepared part for easy reassembly by carpenters at Hunter's Point. Furthermore, he had advised them of the name of the ship on which the parts of the prefabricated house were to be loaded.

Throughout the next few days and far into the night the excited family spent hours of converse about the wondrous gift while anticipating the ship's arrival. When the shout went up that it was coming down the harbor, all the members of the family, both young and old, rushed into the drenching storm that was abroad, to a place of vantage on the shore for a sight of the vessel

bearing the precious freight. But their joyous shouts and laughter were strangled in fear constricted threats as they witnessed a sudden terrific intensifying of the storm, and the brave struggle of the ship to breast it. Its sails were down except one which, lung-like, was heaving in and out with the battering wind, while the tired ship lifted its pinched nose against the hurricane in exhausting efforts to survive. But the elements, as if angered at its escape from their vengeance in rounding the Horn, bore down on the vessel in the frightful fury of a battle to the death, and the sorrowing awed family on the shore were to see it finally dashed against the rocks—perhaps Shag Rock—and the sailors abandoning it as they struggled for their own lives to reach the land. Melancholy, the more poignant from the unexpectedness of their loss, settled heavily on the hearts of the family group. The noble house which was to bring comfort and joy to them through its commodious size and elegant appear-

ance was lost with the ship beneath the waters of the Bay beyond any possibility of salvage.

SAGA OF THE LOST HOUSE

Years had passed by, when in the seventies Mary Louise and Charlotte arrived to gladden the family. As the little girls grew and began to notice about the home, a sextant here or old silver castors there, or a ship's telescope or a ruined watch in the attic, they curiously asked their parents about their origin. Then they were told how their oldest brothers—all expert swimmers as boys, since they lived on the water's edge—had often in childhood swum to the site of an old wreck from which by diving into its cabin they had salvaged the curious articles. And as they grew older, the girls were told the whole saga of the dream house their grandfather had wished for them, of the family's vigil on the shore in the storm, and of the wreck of the ship before



MAP OF THE HUNTER FARMS. THE SECTION IN THE UPPER RIGHT, MARKED 7.07 ACRES WAS THE FARM OF JOHN HUNTER. THE REST OF THE TRACT MARKED "ITALIAN GARDENS" BELONGED TO ROBERT AND PHILIP HUNTER. (SEE PAGE 38). THE GARDENS WERE RENTED TO GIOVANNI BATISTA FINOCCHIO IN 1861. COURTESY MR. A. O. ROULEAU.

their eyes. In the sixty years that have passed, Mary and Charlotte, long since in homes of their own, often retold the story to their children and latterly to their grandchildren, even as they related it to this chronicler in the hope of its preservation.

HUNTERS LACKED VALID LAND TITLE

There was, however, a spectre which ever threatened to disturb the tranquility of the Hunters in the enjoyment of the twenty-nine and sixty-two hundredths acreage which they had enclosed with fencing as their home.

It was the knowledge that they possessed no clear title to the land. Corneille de Boom likewise became disturbed about the security of his holdings, but through a series of realty transactions, he obtained a deed on January 30, 1862, putting him in full possession of all the property at Hunter's Point and in the Bay View District with the exception, of course, of the few lots sold by him and Dr. Townsend in their 1849 sales campaign.¹³

By this deed, de Boom could have immediately taken over the Hunter Ranch. However, he did not press his claim for the moment, allowing the family to dwell on the land as usual. Philip Schuyler Hunter made a feeble attempt to dispute de Boom's right to the Hunter Ranch by suing him on November 12, 1863, to obtain a conveyance in fee simple to the tract; but realizing the futility of his position, he did not press the suit, and it was dismissed on July 2, 1865.¹⁴

THE JOHN HUNTER TRACT

Corneille de Boom had always been partial to Philip and Robert Hunter since the early days of their employment by him and Dr. Townsend as real estate agents, but now indignant over Philip's suit against him, he ignored them to confer a great favor on their brother John alone. Carving out about a fourth of the Hunter Ranch—to be exact seven and two hundredths acres—Corneille de Boom made an outright present of it to John Hunter, explaining in the deed that he was prompted to do so “out of consideration of love and affection for him, and for his better support and maintenance.”¹⁵ John Hunter was most happy to obtain in this manner the real Bernal title, to feel at last that a parcel of land was indisputably his own. But Philip and Robert on the contrary were enraged against de Boom for what they said was an invasion of their ranch by him, and they brought suit against John for the recovery of the parcel of the land that de Boom had given to him, in the 15th District Court on May 23, 1867.¹⁶ Four years went by, when finally on February 7, 1871, judgment was

rendered against the brothers. In other words the court decided that the property had legally been the possession of Corneille de Boom, and that he was within his rights when he made a gift of 7.02 acres of it to John Hunter.

HUNTER FAMILY FINALLY OBTAINS VALID BERNAL TITLE TO LAND

Philip and Robert Hunter still maintained possession of the remainder of the ranch, which, to be exact again, now amounted to 22.6 acres. A second suit would have been necessary to dispossess them. Whether de Boom was inclined to proceed with such a suit or not is immaterial, because shortly afterwards the brothers acquired the real Bernal title to the parcel. The brothers had received considerable money at the time through the will of a rich relative in the east, and it is not improbable that they bought the property outright from de Boom at a compromise figure. On the otherhand, de Boom may have relented and bestowed the land on them as a gift. How they came into possession of the Bernal title is unimportant and not worth the trouble of further research. All that is important is the knowledge that they did actually receive it, and a notation witnessing to the fact made in the handwriting of Mr. F. A. Rouleau in the year 1880 was found in the archives of the Title Insurance and Guaranty Company of San Francisco by his son and his successor in the presidency of the company, Mr. O. A. Rouleau. Once possessed of it, Philip and Robert Hunter quickly sold the property to the Savings and Loan Society by a deed dated March 11, 1871.

DEPARTURE OF THE HUNTER FAMILY FROM HUNTER'S POINT

Finally after a residence as pioneers at Hunter's Point for a quarter of a century spent in affectionate companionship the three Hunter brothers disposed of their interests and moved away. The lawsuits amongst themselves had been friendly actions to settle questions of land titles.

SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE HUNTER FAMILY

Philip Schuyler Hunter, who had been named after the famous general of the Revolutionary War, returned immediately to the east, married late in life, and made his new home in West Jersey. Since his name appears for the last time in the San Francisco Directory in 1872, it was either in that year or early in the next that he made his departure from Hunter's Point.

There were two children, Elizabeth and Robert, in the family of Robert Hunter. The family moved from Hunter's Point either in 1874 or

1875 to make their home at Duncan Mills, California. The San Francisco Directory lists Robert Hunter for the last time in 1874. Three grandchildren, all girls and now married, survive in the line of Robert.

It was in 1873 that John Hunter moved his large family from Hunter's Point to Sebastapol, California, to take up farming on a large scale. The families of John and Robert, thus living in the same general vicinity, often exchanged visits with each other during the four years of John's stay at Sebastapol. Thereafter he and his family made their home in the Bay View District in San Francisco until his death in 1899 at the age of seventy-seven.

Of the seven children of Colonel Robert R. Hunter, all but Robert Eugene and Angelina had become converts to the Catholic Church. Charlotte Hunter, John's wife, had also entered the same church as a convert in the city of Montreal. All the older children of John Hunter, who were born in San Francisco, were baptized in

the old church of Mission Dolores. In later years Mt. St. Joseph's Orphanage was erected in the Bay View District near the Hunter home, and for greater convenience Charlotte and Mary Louise Hunter were brought for their christening to the chapel of the orphanage. The records of their baptism are to be found in the register of the Orphanage, now in possession of All Hallows Church.¹⁷

In the year 1912 the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, the gift of Mrs. Andrew Welch, was erected at Hunter's Point.

In the choir of the church, which stands but four blocks from their childhood home, John Hunter's surviving children, Charles Hunter, Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, Mrs. Mary Louise Hale, Edward Hunter and Mrs. Justine James placed a stained glass window of St. Cecilia with the inscription:

"Given in Honor
of Mr. and Mrs. John Hunter,
Pioneers of Hunter's Point."

NOTES



NOTES ON CHAPTER ONE

- 1—Palou's Historical Memoirs of New California IV-41-42. Ayala's Diario.
- 2—Land Titles in California: Hart vs. Burnett. Page 13.
- 3—Map of Dolores Locality in Zoeth S. Eledredge's Beginnings of San Francisco.
- 4—Report on San Francisco Mission Boundaries. By Father Thomas Estenaga in Cal Arch St. Pap Mission VI 229. Translated in "San Francisco or Mission Dolores," by Fr. Z. Engelhardt. Page 186.
- 5—Bancroft's History of California. II, Page 595.
- 6—Bancroft's History of California. I., Page 706.

NOTES ON CHAPTER TWO

- 1—San Francisco or Mission Dolores by Rev. Z. Engelhardt. Page 242.
- 2—History of California by Hittell. II, Page 189.
- 3—History of California by Bancroft. III, Page 341.
- 4—Land Titles in California. Hart vs. Burnett. Page 144.
- 5—Quoted in The Missions by Father Z. Engelhardt. IV, Page 144.
- 6—History of California by Bancroft. IV, Pages 48-51.
- 7—Dwinelle's Colonial History of California. Addenda XLVI, Page 64.
- 8—History of California by Bancroft. V, Page 711.
- 9—Dwinelle's Colonial History of California. Addenda XLVI, Page 64 seq.
- 10—History of California by Bancroft. III, Page 715.
- 11—Dwinelle's Colonial History of California. Narr. 74-75. Addenda, XLX, Pages 86-88.
- 12—Report of Land Cases by Ogden Hoffman. Vol I, Page 50.

NOTES ON CHAPTER THREE

- 1—El Dorado by Baynard Taylor. Page 55.
- 2—New York Evening Post, Nov. 15, 1849. Quoted in "California" by Josiah Royce.
- 3—Advertisement in the Alta California. Issue of Sept. 27, 1849.
- 4—Liber B of the Almond Records, San Francisco Recorder's Office, Page 115.
- 5—Partnership, dated July 1, 1849. Recorded December 16, 1862 (180 of Deeds, Page 312.)
- 6—In "Oregon Sketches." Bancroft Library.
- 7—Map in library of the California Historical Society, 456 McAllister Street, San Francisco.
- 8—October 18, 1849, issue of the Alta California.
- 9—History of California. Bancroft, VI, Page 194.
- 10—"A Frenchman In the Gold Rush," by Ernest de Massey, Part VI.

NOTES ON CHAPTER FOUR

- 1—"A Frenchman In the Gold Rush," by Ernest de Massey, Part VI.
- 2—Photostat of an original clipping from the September

- 28, 1874, issue of the Daily Public Opinion of Trenton, N. J., of the obituary notice of Colonel Robert R. Hunter. The original clipping is in the possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Justine James, daughter of John Hunter, whose residence is at Seaford, Long Island, New York. See photostat on page 37.
- 3—Testimony of Mrs. Mary Louise Hunter Hale, daughter of John Hunter of Hunters Point, whose residence is at 234 Farallone Street, San Francisco.
- 4—Obituary Notice. See note No. 2, above.
- 5—Testimony of Mrs. Mary Louise Hale. See note No. 3, above.
- 6—Mrs. Hale states that her father, John Hunter who died at the age of seventy-seven, in 1899, was ten months older than Philip Schuyler Hunter. Philip Schuyler Hunter would have been twenty-six years of age in 1849. Mrs. Hale further states that her father, John Hunter, was a little younger than Robert. Accordingly, Robert Hunter would have been about twenty-nine years of age in 1849.
- 7—C. W. Haskins, in his "Argonauts of California," lists Robert and Philip Hunter amongst the sixteen passengers on the "Memnon" in 1849.
- 8—In "Clipper Ship Era" by Captain Arthur H. Clark, Page 145. Describes this record trip made from New York to San Francisco by the Memnon in 1849. The date of arrival is given as July 28, 1849.
- 9—Mr. O. A. Rouleau, President of the Title Insurance and Guaranty Company, San Francisco, in a letter to the author states, "The records of this period do not disclose any title or claim in the Hunters, so that it is reasonable to believe that their possession was by suffrance under the ownership of the Bernal and their successors."
- 10—Statement of Mrs. Mary Louise Hale. See note 3 above. John's name first appears in the San Francisco City Directory in 1856.
- 11—The original agreement signed with the Hunter Family by the Independent Water Company on September 20, 1855, is in the archives of the Title Insurance and Guaranty Co., of San Francisco. The parties to the contract were Samuel Price, John M. Thain, John McKennon, Murray Thain and Oscar F. Livingston.
- 12—Statement of Mrs. Mary Louise Hale, daughter of John Hunter, that the Hunter Family received a compensation of fifty dollars a month from the Independent Water Co. for water from their spring.
- 13—The series of transactions was as follows, according to Mr. O. A. Rouleau, President of the Title Insurance and Guaranty Company of San Francisco: "Notwithstanding the deed made by Jose Bernal and wife to Dr. Townsend and de Boom to the tract hereafter called South San Francisco, the widow and son claimed an interest therein equivalent to an undivided one-half. This interest, such as it existed, was sold out under execution sale to Francis S. Spring by Sheriff's deed dated March 30, 1860 (106 of Deeds, Page 110). With the exception of sundry lots delineated on the Flint

NOTES

(Continued)



map that had been disposed of, the title to the greater part of the site of South San Francisco, derived under the foregoing deed of concession, the agreement thereunder, and the interest of Spring under the Sheriff's deed, and sundray other claims, became vested by mesne conveyances in Henry Barroilhet. The deeds to Barroilhet are as follows:

From Charles Mayne, as Receiver, dated May 15, 1861, recorded May 18, 1861. (132 D. 148).

From Theodore Le Roy, dated May 16, 1861, recorded May 17, 1861 (132 D. 139).

From Same to Same, dated May 17, 1861, recorded May 17, 1861. Henry Barroilhet then conveyed to Cornelius de Boom by deed datd January 30, 1862, recorded November 14, 1862 (180 D. 186).

14—P. Schuyler Hunter vs Cornelius de Boom, Harvey S. Brown and Charles Mayne in the 12th District Court No. 11085. For further transactions see 368 D. 356 and

440 D. 8. Archives of the Title Insurance and Guaranty Company.

15—By deed dated April 28, 1865, recorded August 5, 1865 (293 D. 276).

16—Suit in 15th District Court, No. 2868 on May 23, 1867. Judgment was rendered against them on January 7, 1871. Thereafter John Hunter sued the plaintiff in the preceding suit to recover possession (15 D. C. 5586) and judgment was had in his favor on March 20, 1871, whereby he was put in possession on April 11, 1871. To cover expenses of the suit John Hunter sold one third of his parcel of land to Henry H. Byrne and Thomas W. Freelon by deed, dated and recorded October 13, 1869 (529 D. 45). For further transactions see 645 D. 355, Archives of the Title Insurance and Guaranty Company.

17—Data for this subsequent history of the Hunter Family was supplied in the main by Mrs. Mary Louise Hunter Hale, daughter of John Hunter.



LIST OF STREETS AND LOCALITIES OF SAN FRANCISCO NAMED AFTER SOME OF THE HISTORICAL FIGURES MENTIONED IN THE HISTORY OF THE BEGINNINGS OF HUNTER'S POINT

Padre Francisco Palou.....	Palou Ave.
Cornelio Bernal.....	Bernal Heights Bernal Heights Boulevard Bernal Ave.
John, Robert and Philip Hunter.....	Hunter's Point Hunter's Point Boulevard Hunter Ave.
De Haro Family.....	De Haro Street
Francisco Guerrero.....	Guerrero Street
Jose de Cruz Sanchez.....	Sanchez Street
Dr. John Townsend.....	Townsend Street
Corneille de Boom.....	de Boom Street
Addison R. Flint.....	Flint Street

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